MISC.

Congressional Human Rights Caucus

Washington, D.C. 20515

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Congressman John Porter (IL)
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Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4835

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OFFICE

House Annex II Room 552
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 226-4848

August 17, 1989

General Saw Maung, Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
Ministry of Defense
Yangon
Myanmar (Burma)

Dear General Saw Maung:

We welcome the promise that the Myanmar government intends to conduct free and fair elections in May 1990. However, we are deeply concerned about recent developments in your country that severely restrict human rights and diminish the possibility of impartial and respectable elections. Of particular concern to us are some of the ordinances under martial law, conditions in prisons and detention centers, and patterns of intimidation against civilians. We are also distressed by the treatment of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, Brigadier General Tin U, and other leaders of the political opposition.

We denounce the imposition under martial law of government order number 2/88 and notification number 8/88. Government order 2/88 proclaims that "congregating, walking, marching in procession, chanting slogans, delivering speeches, agitating and creating disturbances on the streets by a group of more than five people is banned regardless of whether the act is with the intention of creating disturbances or committing a crime or not." This order suspends activities by political parties, severely restricts freedom of expression and assembly, and jeopardizes individual security by permitting arrests regardless of intent.

Notification number 8/88 declares "organizational activities, speeches, propaganda and subversive literature aimed at dividing the defense forces are prohibited." This notification also restricts free expression, limits on public gatherings, severely restrains political party activity, and hinders the possibility of fair elections.

We are distressed that persons accused of acting contrary to order number 2/88 and notification number 8/88 may be processed under various laws, such as the Emergency Provisions Act of 1950 and the State Protection Act of 1975. Although the Emergency Provisions Act requires that detainees be charged and brought to trial, reports

indicate that your government may be allowing for detainees to be summarily tried and sentenced to death by a military tribunal. In addition, we understand that the State Protection Act permits authorities to order up to three years detention without charge or trial of anyone they believe "will do, is doing, or has done an act which endangers the peace of most citizens or the security and sovereignty of the state." Under internationally recognized standards for human rights, every person has the right to due process and a fair trial. We urge you and your government to amend the current laws in order to ensure the respect of basic human rights -- judicial rights, the right to personal security and the right to life.

At the same time, we are concerned about reports of routine use of torture as a means of intimidation and coercion, hundreds of cases of extrajudicial executions, and detention without trial for nonviolent expression of dissenting political views or for religious beliefs. Many of these reports are represented in a recent publication by Amnesty International. We have enclosed this report for your information and would appreciate receiving your response.

We are particularly concerned about the case of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, Brigadier General Tin U, and other leaders of the opposition party. Reports indicate that these individuals have been denied their right to peaceful assembly and the right to express non-violent political views. We are concerned about the continued detention and the deteriorating health of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi and Brigadier General Tin U. We call on your government to review their cases, to lift their sentence of house arrest and to grant their freedom.

We also call for the case review of other Myanmar citizens who are imprisoned or detained for their peaceful political activities. We would appreciate any information you could provide to us regarding the status of these cases, as well as your assistance in assuring the resolution and expeditious release of these individuals.

We hope that you will address these concerns, and redress the serious human rights violations. We look forward to receiving your response.

Cordially,

Tom Lantos
Member of Congress
CHRC Co-Chairman

John Porter
Member of Congress
CHRC Co-Chairman

Enclosure (1)

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Washington, D.C. 20515

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James H. Scheuer (NY)
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[illegible] (MA)
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TO: Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Legislative Assistants

FROM: Congressional Human Rights Caucus

RE: Myanmar (Burma)

Thursday, September 14th
2:00 - 3:00
2203 Rayburn

not leader

You are invited to a briefing by Burmese dissident leader **Min Sun Min**. Mr. Min is the first member of the Burmese pro-democracy opposition to reach the U.S. since the military crackdown in September 1988.

Last year, millions of Burmese students and civilians participated in massive pro-democracy demonstrations to bring an end to the one-party dictatorship that ruled since 1962. Thousands of peaceful demonstrators were killed in the military crackdown on September 18 & 19, which brought an end to the protests and began a period of arbitrary arrests and torture, compulsory labor, and the "disappearance" of political detainees.

Mr. Min ran an underground newspaper during the pro-democracy demonstrations. He escaped arrest and torture by the military when he fled to the Thai/Burmese border where many opposition groups have sought refuge. He participated in activities of the All Burma Students Democratic Front. While in the U.S., he is appealing for humanitarian aid for dissidents at the border to combat disease, malnutrition, and attacks by the Burmese military, and he is calling for sanctions against the Burmese government.

If you need additional information, please contact Alex Arriaga or Karen Davis at x6-4040.

Congressional Human Rights Caucus

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you need additional information, please contact Alex Arriaga or Karen Davis at x6-4040.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN
ON THE CONTINUED FIGHTING IN BURMA
MAY 9, 1989

Mr. President: We have of late been heartened by the news that the Cambodian civil war might soon be resolved, that after years of careful diplomacy and international pressure peace may return to that troubled country. But Mr. President, not 300 miles from the battlefields of Cambodia an equally bloody civil war is being fought in tragic obscurity. In Burma a brutal military government which has been condemned by the international community, including the United States Senate, is escalating its war with the armed Burmese opposition, the Democratic Alliance of Burma. The world can and should take notice.

Since last September, when the military violently supressed a pro-democratic movement in Burma, several thousand refugees, most of whom are university students, have fled to Burma's borders with Thailand, China, and India. There they have settled under the protection of Burma's ethnic minority insurgents and together with them formed the Alliance. In recent weeks, the military has launched an offensive against these positions, conscripting civilians to carry heavy loads and sweep minefields, and pounding refugee camps with all the force it can muster. Five days ago, the Alliance camp of Wangkha on the Thai-Burmese border, home to over 500 student refugees, came under attack. Since Saturday night the military, without regard to the presence of civilians, has reportedly bombarded the camp with over 2,000 heavy mortar shells each day.

The war has pushed over 20,000 refugees into Thailand, and uncounted others into China and India. Burmese troops have recently crossed into Thailand to stage attacks against insurgent positions from the rear. The government's purpose is two-fold: to eliminate its student opposition and to open trade routes to Thailand, through which it will sell off Burma's natural resources, namely teak logs. Burma contains 80 percent of the world's remaining teak forests. Thailand has depleted its own, and appears eager to participate in the destruction of Burma's forests.

This war has continued for far too long -- forty years now. It is the reason Burma lost its democracy, the reason for the ascendency of the army, and there is no good reason for it to go on in obscurity. Burma is a nation of forty million people, larger than Nicaragua, Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Angola combined. The armed ethnic opposition fields more soldiers than the Contras. Its leadership understands the need for a political solution to the conflict. And a political solution is possible. The opposition is not composed of fanatics. There is no Khmer Rouge in Burma. It's demands are fair, and therefore unexciting: a negotiated cease fire; the right to participate in

free elections; a political system that respects their cultural integrity.

The attitude of the State Department to the conflict has been marked not so much by negligence but by neglect. We have no contact with the armed opposition, and our contact with the government consisted until last September of training its officers and providing them with helicopters. Our attention has instead focused on Khun Sa, a brutal opium warlord who controls much of the Golden Triangle's heroin traffic. Khun Sa is not an insurgent. In fact, he was once a Burmese Army home guard commander. He is despised by the opposition. In any event, Khun Sa, as sensational as he may be, is not the issue. The issue is the civil war and what we can do to help end it.

It is long past time we spoke out firmly on the need to end the violence in Burma and to help its innocent victims. The war needs mediation. The opposition desires it. Someone, the United States, the United Nations, or ASEAN, should be able to provide it. The government of Thailand has shown some interest in this regard. It should be encouraged to play a constructive role and commended for each positive step it takes. And as long as the violence continues, the United States and humanitarian aid organizations should work with governments in the region to assist the refugees who are forced to flee from the fighting.

Mr. President, obscure countries have a way of becoming painfully prominent when the world ignores their problems for too long. I trust we have learned from past mistakes to act before it is finally too late.

No. 1205/255

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2ND Notice
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THAILAND
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BANGKOK 2
No. 0608
MAIL
AVION

Mr. William Weaver
10009 Clearfield Avenue
Vienna, Virginia 22180
U.S.A.

BY AIR MAIL

4

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(202) 225-5136

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON CHILDREN, YOUTH
AND FAMILIES

June 30, 1986

Mr. William Weaver
10009 Clearfield Avenue
Vienna, Virginia 22180

Dear Mr. Weaver:

Thank you for sending me a letter regarding your experiences in Thailand and your concern about the per-bushel price of rice the U.S. is paying to the Thai farmer. I appreciate knowing your views.

You can be assured that if I have the opportunity to act on this issue or other legislation involving the plight of the Thai farmers during the 99th Congress, I will keep your views in mind.

Again, thank you for contacting me and bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:ssf

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS

Congressional Human Rights Caucus

Washington, D.C. 20515

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Legislative Assistants

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If you need additional information, please contact Alex Arriaga or Maria Theria at 57-4011.

STATEMENT OF MIN SUN MIN

BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS UNION

September 14, 1994

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to thank you for providing this forum for testimony on the state of human rights in my country, Burma. While Americans are aware of the pro-democracy demonstrations which took place during August and September of last year, little is known about the continuing decline in basic standards of human rights in Burma.

It is a sad fact that Summary arrest, torture and imprisonment are the only rewards which accrue to any attempt at free expression. The military dictatorship believes it can drive out the parliamentarians free from the attention of outside publicity or world opinion. Hopefully, fora of interest, such as this one, will suggest to them that their game is up. They have been found out and international condemnation will rain down upon them like the hail of bullets they use to smash the democratic aspirations of our people.

There is an illegal regime which can only cling to power by bayonet, fatal intimidation, and money. The regime cynically barters away Burma's vast resources at cut rate prices for the money it takes to keep their ship of state afloat on a sea of blood. But the people of Burma are not without hope. We welcome the interest shown by the United States. We support the various resolutions condemning the brutality of the regime. But we also yearn for action on the part of the U.S. Fortunately, there are legislation before the House and Senate which can translate into real gains for our suffering people.

I refer specifically to S. 621 and H.R. 1078 which would make the importation of teak and fish products originating in Burma illegal. The economic windfall from these products only line the pockets of the illegal regime ... the people of Burma do not benefit. We do, however, have to live with the ecological devastation that is the result of this bleakneck exploitation.

I also refer specifically to the amendment to the foreign aid bill which would provide humanitarian assistance to the dispossessed students living in horrendous conditions on and around the Thai-Burma border. These students are the fruit and future of our nation and must not be left to waste away for lack of a few basic necessities. I believe that the will exists in Congress to help alleviate our suffering. We lack only the focus required to bring about results. I strongly urge all who are interested in human rights and the welfare of the people of Burma to bring pressure to bear on the government of Burma and the perpetrators of these great crimes.

Congressional Human Rights Caucus
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Rayburn H.O.B.
Wash., D.C. 20515

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August 17, 1989

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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20418

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Date: February 11, 1982
Contact: Gail Porter, (202) 334-2138

MEDIA ADVISORY

WATER BUFFALO: FACT AND FICTION

The water buffalo is perhaps one of the most misunderstood and underutilized animals in the world. Although domesticated 5,000 years ago, the water buffalo has yet to fulfill its potential as a source of meat, milk, cheese, and farm power. A new report by a National Research Council committee debunks some common myths about this great horned beast and examines its advantages and disadvantages compared to cattle, focusing on its promise for developing countries.

Some excerpts:

"The United States has been slow to recognize the water buffalo's potential, but the first herd (50 head) ever imported for commercial farming arrived in February 1978. The humble water buffalo, normally considered fit only for the steamy rice fields of Asia is now proving itself on farm fields in Florida and Louisiana. As a result, interest in the animal is on the rise in U.S. university and farm circles." (Emphasis added.)

"...it is widely believed that the water buffalo is mean and vicious....The truth is, however, that unless wounded or severely stressed, the domesticated water buffalo is one of the gentlest of all farm animals. Despite an intimidating appearance, it is more like a household pet--sociable, gentle, and serene. In rural Asia, the care of water buffaloes is often turned over to small boys and girls aged about four to nine."

(MORE)

"Another belief is that the water buffalo is exclusively a tropical animal. River-type buffaloes have been used to pull snow plows during Bulgarian winters. They are found in Italy, Albania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, the Georgia and Azerbaijan areas of the Soviet Union, and other temperate-zone regions as well. They are also found in cold, mountainous areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nepal."

"Buffaloes are not only extraordinarily strong, they can also work in deep mud that may bog down a tractor. Even up to their bellies they forge on... Although its average walking speed is only about 3 kilometers per hour, the buffalo, unlike it mechanical competition, doesn't need gasoline or spare parts and its working life is often 20 years or more."

"Mozzarella cheese, one of the most popular in Europe, comes from the buffaloes in Italy. Buffalo milk has a higher content of both butterfat and nonfat solids than cow's milk does. It therefore often brings higher prices than cow's milk. Throughout much of India it is in such demand that cow's milk is sometimes hard to sell."

"In taste-preference tests at the University of Queensland, buffalo steaks were preferred over those of Angus and Hereford cattle. Tests conducted in Trinidad, Venezuela, the United States, and Malaysia produced similar results."

"Buffalo meat is now available in stores in Australia's Northern Territory, where demand exceeds supply. It sells at competitive prices and is particularly sought for barbecues and the famous Australian meat pie. In the Philippines, two-thirds of the meat consumed in homes and restaurants is actually water buffalo, a fact many Filipinos do not realize....The animals now supply Egypt with more meat--much of it in the form of tender "veal"--than any other animal. They also provide milk, cooking oil, and cheese."

"A better understanding of the water buffalo could be invaluable to many developing nations. In particular, improved production of water buffalo meat offers hope for helping feed India, the second most populous nation on earth. Although India for religious reasons forbids the slaughter of cows, it has no prohibitions regarding slaughter of water buffaloes or the consumption of water buffalo meat."

"Most developing countries are in the tropics and the water buffalo is inherently a tropical animal....Although susceptible to most cattle diseases, the water buffalo...often appears to be more resistant to some of the most devastating plagues that make cattle risky, difficult, and sometimes impossible in the tropics...Compared with cattle, water buffaloes apparently have an efficient digestive system, one which extracts nourishment from forage so coarse and poor that cattle do not thrive on it."

A limited number of free copies of The Water Buffalo: New Prospects for an Underutilized Animal are available by written request to the Commission on International Relations, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C., 20418. Reporters can obtain copies from the Office of Information at the letterhead address. Black-and-white, 5 X 7 prints of the photo by Don Hong-Oai on page one of this advisory are also available.

# # #

gp: 1,5,8,e,f

Table 5.--U.S. trade data
Flow: General imports
Type: Customs value
Partner: BURMA
(Thousands of dollars)

HS commodity	Time	1987	1988	January-July 1988	January-July 1989
Total all commodities		11,769	11,590	8,751	11,456
6205--Men's or boys' shirts, not knitted or crocheted		3,086	2,900	1,954	2,427
0306--Crustaceans, live, fresh etc, and cooked etc		2,239	1,702	1,454	2,063
7103--Precious nesoi & semiprec stones, not strung etc		435	166	126	1,301
6204--Women's or girls' suits, ensemb etc, not knit etc		662	2,205	1,914	1,117
4407--Wood sawn or chipped length, sliced etc, ov6mm th		2,008	1,710	1,110	994
9801--Expts of repaired impts; impts of returned expts		56	0	0	776
7116--Articles of nat or cult pearls, prec/semprc stones		3	0	0	[illegible]
9810--Imports of religious, education, scient etc inst		30	15	15	649
4403--Wood in the rough, stripped or not of sapwood etc		0	0	0	295
7101--Pearls, natural or cultured, not strung or set etc		182	81	27	271
6110--Sweaters, pullovers, vests etc, knit or crocheted		7	49	36	245
2611--Chngsten ores and concentrates		478	214	[illegible]	182
6203--Men's or boys' suits, ensembles etc, not knit etc		1	0	0	87
6307--Made-up articles of textile materials nesoi		0	48	13	55
4409--Wood, continuously shaped (tongued, grooved etc.)		0	44	27	46
8527--Reception apparatus for radiotelephony etc		0	0	0	45
7104--Synth prec or semiprec stones etc, not strung etc		127	47	19	32
9706--Nutiques of an age exceeding one hundred years		118	83	59	31
2204--Wine of fresh grapes; grape must nesoi		0	0	0	20
6302--Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen & kitch linen		0	32	11	17
8303--Safes, cash or deed boxes etc a prts, base metal		0	0	0	15
4418--Builders' joinery and carpentry of wood		2	0*	0*	8
4408--Veneer sheets etc, not over 6 mm thick		5	4	2	7
9999--Imports equip etc repairs; est, imports nov $1000		8	2	2	3
4421--Articles of wood, nesoi		1	1	1	1
Total of items shown		9,448	9,302	6,984	11,456
Total other		2,320	2,287	1,767	0

Note: 1983-88 data are estimated.
Note: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Note: Data shown for 1983-88 are estimated data.
Top 50 commodities shown by General imports, Customs value in 1989 January-July.

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Table 8.--U.S. trade data
Flow: Total exports
Type: F.a.s. value
Partner: BURMA
(Thousands of dollars)

HS commodity	Time	1987	198	January-July 1988	January-July 1989
Total all commodities		7,793	10642	3,754	3,408
8431--Parts for mainery of headings 8425 to 8430		540	247	237	408
8525--Trans appar or radiotelephony etc; tv cameras		796	159	141	386
9015--Survey, hydrgr, meteoro etc inst; rangef etc, pts		26	63	15	335
8413--Pumps for lirids; liquid elevators; parts thereof		0	12	0	303
2942--Organic compinds nesoi		0	0	0	298
8471--Automatic da process machines; magn reader etc		60	41	0	268
8465--Machine tool for working wood, cork, bone etc		37	11	29	143
9405--Lamps & lighing fittings & parts etc nesoi		0	0	11	136
8803--Parts of balons etc, aircraft, spacecraft etc		342	309	0	134
2524--Asbestos		0	0	234	101
8527--Reception apratus for radiotelephony etc		89	15	0	92
9880--Estimate of ports valued under $1501		164	285	3	84
8443--Printing macinery; machines ancil to printing, pt		16	3	100	61
3004--Medicaments isoi, mixed or not, in dosage etc fm.		149	1192	3	59
8412--Engines and rtors nesoi, and parts thereof		0	0	1,191	56
9018--Medical, surical, dental or vet inst, no elec, pt		12	54	0	36
8421--Centrifuges; ilter etc mach for liq or gases; pts		15	1	45	34
8529--Parts for television, radio and radar apparatus		151	18	0*	32
8514--Industrial orlab elec furnaces etc, parts		0	3	6	30
0802--Nuts nesoi, fesh or dried		0	0	3	30
3819--Hydraulic brae fluids/liq for hydraulic trans etc		11	0	0	28
8548--Electrical pts of machinery nesoi		3	0*	0	26
9802--Articles donad for relief or charity nesoi		1	0*	0*	26
5608--Knotted net o twine etc; fish net etc of textiles		49	13	0*	23
2936--Provitamins ad vitamins & derivatives & intermixs		0	0	13	23
8540--Thermionic, dd cathode or photocathode tubes, pt		0	43	0	20
8473--Parts etc fortypewriters & other office machines		11	0	43	18
2309--Preparations sed in animal feeding		39	41	0	17
8409--Parts for engies of heading 8407 or 8408		0	22	4	17
3006--Pharmaceutica goods (specified sterile prod etc.)		14	17	22	16
9809--Exports value not over $10,000, not indentified		2	4	3	12
3808--Insecticides, odenticides; fungicides etc, retail		76	39	4	12
8708--Parts & acces for motor vehicles (head 8701-8705)		0	0	34	10
3403--Lubricating pps, antirust & treating texiles etc		75	5	0	10
6309--Nern clothingind other worn articles		0	25	2	9
		0	0	25	8
				0	

Note: 1983-88 dat are estimated.
Note: Compiled fr official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Note: Data shown 1983-88 are estimated data.
Special category eorts included only from 1989 on.
Top 50 commoditie ted by Total exports, F.a.s. value in 1989 January-July

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Table 8.--U.S. trade data
Flow: Total exports
Type: F.a.s. value
Partner: BURMA
(Thousands of dollars)

HS commodity	Time	1987	1988	January-July 1988	January-July 1989
3926--Articles of plastics (inc polymers & resins) nesoi		08			
9014--Direction finding compasses & navig. inst etc, pts.		9	08		
8543--Electrical mach etc, with ind functions nesoi		21	2	0	
8414--Air or vac pumps, compr & fans; hoods & fans; pts.		2	1	4	8
3811--Antiknock props & oil or additives for mineral oils		0	132	1	5
8207--Electric stoage batteries, incl separators, parts		0	13	132	7
9027--Inst etc for physical etc anal etc; microtomes; pts		6	0	5	7
9017--Drawing, math, measuring inst etc nesoi, parts.....		127	59	0	6
8415--Air conditioning machines (temp & hum changes); pts		1	1	75	5
8511--Electric ignition etc equip; generators; parts.....		0	48	0	2
8481--Taps, cocks, valves etc equip; parts for pipes, tanks etc, pts.		0	0	48	2
8466--Parts etc for machine tools of heads 8456 to 8465....		0	0	0	2
7017--Glassware for lab, hygienic or pharmaceutical use....		2	3	0	2
9023--X-sl, apptus&models,for demonstrational uses parts.		20	16	0	2
Total of items shown.....		0	0	84	2
Total other.....		2,858	2,969	1	2
		4,935	7,681	0	2
				2,357	3
				1,306	3,381
					27

Note: 1985-88 data are estimated.
Note: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Note: Data shown for 1985-88 are estimated data.
Special category exports included only from 1989 on.
Top 50 commodities sorted by total exports, F.a.s. value in 1989 January-July.